

Family Care State-Wide *Fact Sheet*

Governor Jim Doyle plans to expand the successful Family Care program statewide within 5 years.

- Family Care gives seniors and people with disabilities the choice to get long term care in their own homes and communities as an option to nursing home care.
- Family Care is a successful pilot program in five counties in Wisconsin including: Fond du Lac, LaCrosse, Milwaukee, Portage and Richland counties.
- Family Care has proven people can get the long term care they need and prefer, and that this can save money for taxpayers by helping people stay healthy and independent.

Family Care helps seniors and people with disabilities make choices about their long-term care that give them the dignity and independence they deserve.

- Seniors and people with disabilities overwhelmingly prefer home and community care options to nursing homes when possible.
- The Governor's goal is to eliminate all waitlists for home and community-based care over five years as Family Care expands across the State.
- While Wisconsin has been a national leader in offering community-based alternatives to nursing home care, about 11,500 people are on waitlists for community care statewide.

Family Care is Cost-Effective

- The majority of expenditures (74%) in the Medicaid program are made to meet health care and long term care needs on behalf of seniors and people with disabilities.
- In SFY 2004, state government spent \$2.046 billion on a range of long-term care services, serving 60,000 seniors and people with disabilities in homes, assisted living facilities, and nursing homes.
- A recent evaluation of Family Care found that it saved an average of \$452 per person per month in total Medical Assistance expenditures in the four non-Milwaukee counties during 2003 and 2004. It did so by helping people stay healthy and more independent in their homes and communities. Family Care also saved money in Milwaukee.
- Because of these savings, Family Care can be expanded within the existing budget and serve people now on waiting lists.